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TURIN STORMWATER RESILIENCE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

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Dear Reader,

following the publication of the Strategic Plan of the Politecnico di Torino "Polito4Impact" along with the Strategic Plan of Università di Torino, all the Departments within the Athenaeums have been asked to follow this *stream* and work on the preparation of their specific strategic plan. Therefore, in January 2019 the Director of DIST, prof. Giulio Mondini, announced that the Department would begin its process of developing the **DIST Strategic Plan** for the period 2019-2024. In introducing this process, the Director emphasised the importance of this document, as it will identify the Department's mission, vision, and values that will guide the Department over the next five years. The pursuit of excellent and relevant science in education and research, as it has been recently recognised through the award of Department of Excellence by MIUR (the Italian Ministry for University), is and will remain DIST's core ambition. This strategy further builds on the successful strategic line the department set out in its previous Strategic Plan. By continuing along this chosen path, DIST aspires to strengthen and expand its national and international status of scientific excellence and, at the same time, remaining relevant for all the stakeholders of the territory. Therefore, this Strategic Plan will be focused on further consolidating the quality of the department's research, education and third mission, reinforcing its profile and gathering together high profile researchers in multidisciplinary collaborations. In order to achieve these objectives, the Plan has involved and will be engaging all the members of DIST in submitting ideas, staying up-to-date and attending events. The final document will be probably shared with all the department community in Autumn 2019.

Concerning this current issue, you will be updated, as usual, on seminars, conferences, workshops and research projects that have been carried out during the latest months at DIST. In particular, I would like to draw your attention on the most "concerning" topic that is strongly affecting our present and future life: climate change. Two research projects are dealing with the effects of climate change on two different territories, Africa and European Alps. **ANADIA 2** is a three-year research-action project for adaptation to climate change, disaster prevention and agricultural development in Niger, while the second projects deal with the **Effects of climate change on winter tourism in Monterosa resort and adaptation measures**. Dealing with sustainability, the Horizon 2020 project, **SCORE** - Supporting Consumer Co-ownership in Renewable Energies, aims at promoting the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy (RE)sources. Finally, May 2 2019 marks the 500th anniversary of Leonardo's death in Amboise, France, and this milestone is celebrated all over the world. Among these flurry of activities, DIST provides its contribution thanks to the research project **Leonardo and the Piedmont** which will be focused on the study of all the references to Piedmont contained in Leonardo's sheets.

Hoping you enjoy reading the issue,
best regards

costanzo.mercugliano@polito.it

BLUE/GREEN SOCIO_TECHNICAL ENGAGEMENT

DIST at the Turin stormwater resilience international workshop

TURIN STORMWATER RESILIENCE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

2019, 17th of January

New Orleans is one of the contemporary hot spot on last generation urban stormwater management strategies: as "delta city", Katrina hurricane impressive damnages led to a quick acceleration on sharing necessity to manage urbanized area as blue/green built environement, not only as an engineering giant hydraulic mecanoo. In this framework, the Greater New Orleans Urban WaterPlan it's a paragmatic example of strategic approach of the urban area in its regional context, focused on water resiliency.

In that plan, hard-tech and soft-tech solutions are linked by integrated approach, i.e. a comprehensive vision on planning, urban design, technological detailing, as a solution for water management in extreme condition.

This approach is intended as an upload as Water Sensitive Design paradigm, also for the role of cityzens: in New Orleans they are not involved in partecipatory design approach, moving by general level of information; they are engaged in a co-creation process, starting from sharing proto-scientific knowledge, through different forms of communication (including artistic interpretation).

The process is focused on the holistic approach on the link between stormater management and open space re-design: it is called "Theory of Change for Community-Driven Climate Adaptation".

A lot of importance assumes the role of "Water Leaders": i.e., a three-persons group (an architect, a social science expert, an academic expert) – not from the Municipality staff – as mediators in respect of che Community Leaders (choosen by inhabitants from the different neighbourhood).

Four years ago the Municipality of Turin started with the realization of pilot projects on green infrastructures and porous pavements, integrated in street an open space re-design ("Urban Barriera" European Project. Water Sensitive Design academic responsible: Alessandro Mazzotta, Politecnico di Torino): it's one of the first experience of Low Impact Development runoff strategies realization in an italian compact urbanized area.

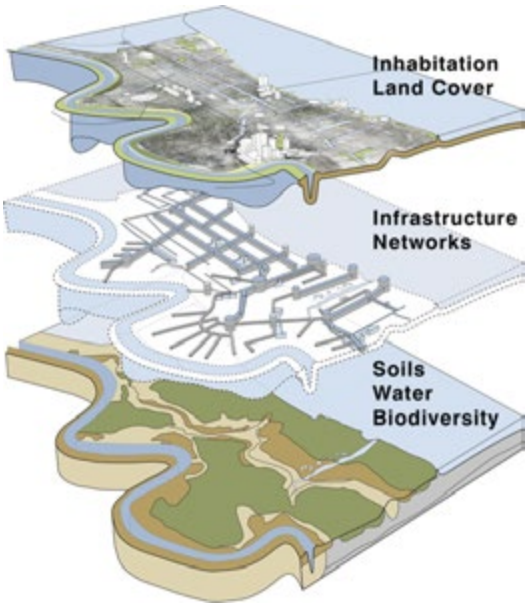
In Urban Barriera experience, citizens engagement actions was focused on general aspects of the neighbourhood open space livability, and not specifically on the "innovative" technological solutions for open space environmental resiliency. But this is a very important matter, of course, first of all for the people acceptance of environmental upload as materic signs – and, often, inusual, in the common perception – in the space of their everyday life.

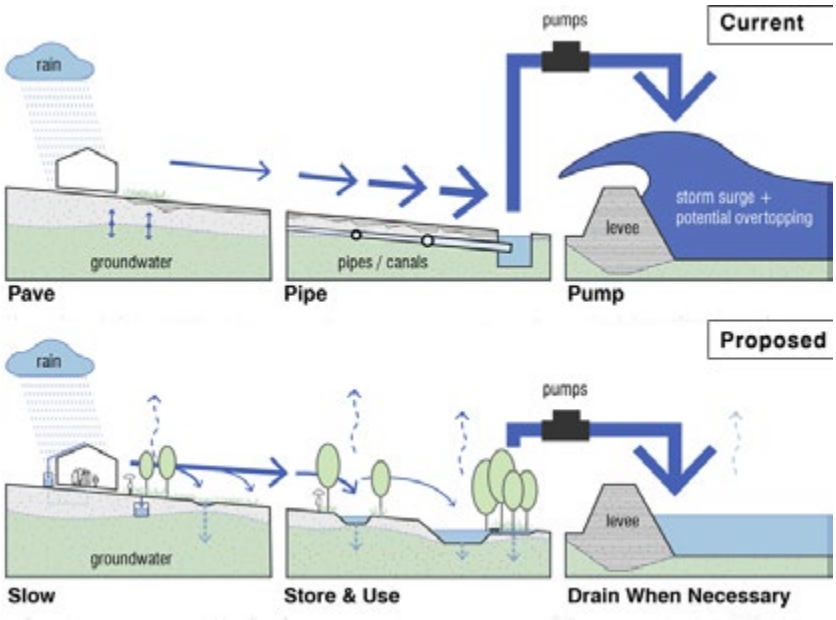
Obviously, the turinese area is not an "extreme condition" case study similar to New Orleans for those that regard the water asset, but the Munipality of Turin is interested in the social implication from the Luosiana lesson, in the perspective of characterize its future Climate Adaptation Urban Plan as a co-created urban planning instrument.













The **Turin stormwater resilience international workshop** (2019, 17th of January) is one of the event organized by the Enviromental Sector of Municipality, in the framework of translatlantic cooperation guided by German Marshall Fund of the United States, to obtain best practices exchange from three italian cities: Bruxelles, Colonia and Turin itsels.

During the workshop, presentations – by Tanya James (Planning and Evaluation Consultant and Executive Director of New Orleans Central City Renaissance Alliance) and Maggie Hermann (New Orleans Process Evaluator and reascher) – underlined corally a key-word: "fear", by New Orleans inhabitans for climate change, related to the hurricane disruption but still alive in the every-day perceptions, for example on common rainfall event. It means citizens distrust toward local public institutions.

From this point of view, the role of academic experts as part of the "Water Leaders" as mediators seems to be an interesting starting point just for european cities: here the long-time invisibility of water cycle in urbanized areas, prevailing the engineering approach of underground drainage pipes, mean first of all cultural distance from the pervasiveness of the water cycle in urbanized areas.

For the italian Higher University, moreover, this approach seems provide good premises to flow in the direction of resume links between the three academic missions of Universities: education, research and cultural disclosure.

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